

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to clarify language describing the movement of the plate (e.g., plate 102). Owing to an error in translating from the original French to English, certain French words were mistakenly translated as "to remove" instead of "away from." The proper translation "away from" has now been entered by way of amendment into the Abstract, specification, and claims. The use of this phrase is clearly supported by the application as originally filed.

THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Each of the amendments to claims 1, 7, 9, 10, and 16 do not involve amendment of a claim element that narrows the literal scope of the claim, and the amendments to the claims were made for purposes unrelated to patentability.

Each of the independent claims 1 and 10 has been amended in the preamble to make it more broad.

Each of independent claims 1 and 10 has also been amended to more broadly set forth the plate 102 design for being pressed against the upper end 42 of the recipient neck 40.

Each of independent claims 1 and 10 has also been amended to change some of the element reference numbers which were inadvertently incorrect in the claims as

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originally filed. Support for the correct numbers is clearly provided in the specification and drawings as originally filed.

The last clause of claim 1 has also been amended to use the correct English language translation from the original French with respect to movement of the plate 102 upwardly away from the attachment means.

Independent claim 10 has also been amended to positively set forth the antecedent basis for recipient neck upper end 42.

Element reference numbers have also been corrected in dependent claims 7, 9, and 16.

Support for the claim amendments and the new claims is found in the specification and drawings of the application as originally filed.

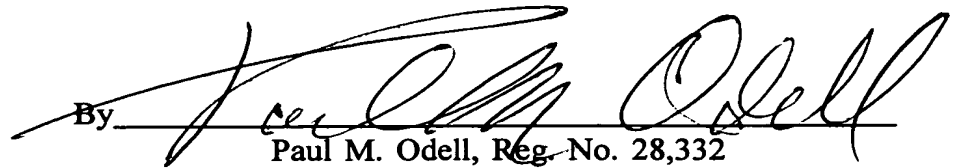
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.”**

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Further, it is believed that this entire application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

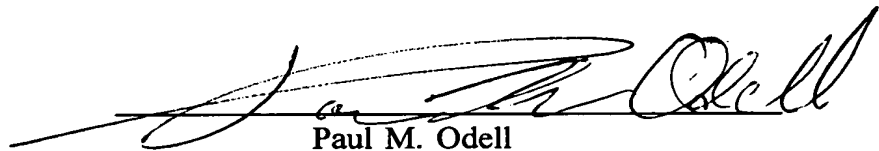
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 19, 2002.


Paul M. Odell

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The previously amended ABSTRACT on page 12 has been amended as follows:

An attachment device is provided to attach a distribution device, such as a pump or a valve, onto a neck of a recipient. The attachment device comprises a ring forming a skirt equipped with an attachment structure, such as clip-on heads, designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient. A reception structure is provided to receive the distribution device. An annular plate extends radially inwards from the skirt. The plate [comprises a lower surface] is designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal if required. The plate can be moved axially upwards [to remove] away from the attachment structure by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck.

The paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

To do this, the present invention proposes an attachment device to attach a distribution device such as a pump or a valve onto a neck of a recipient, said attachment device comprising a ring forming a skirt equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate comprising a lower surface designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal if required,

wherein it is possible to move the plate axially upwards away from [to remove] the attachment means by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck.

Advantageously, the plate is connected to the skirt by a deformable flexible connection. Preferentially, the deformable connection has a thin surface in relation to the plate such that the deformation takes place at the connection. According to a practical embodiment, the deformable connection is formed by a peripheral annular recess provided in the plate to reduce the plate surface thickness locally in a circular fashion.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) Attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) [such as a pump or a valve] onto a neck [(30)] (40) of a recipient [(3)] (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate (102) being [comprising a lower surface (105)] designed to be pressed against the upper end [(31)] (42) of the neck [(30)] (40), with an inserted seal [(4)] (3) if required,

characterized in that the plate (102) can be moved axially upwards [to remove] away from the attachment means by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) Attachment device according to claim 2, wherein the plate [(104)] (102) is rigid except for the deformable flexible connection (106).

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Once Amended) Attachment device according to claim 8, also comprising a hoop [(11)] 13 fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Once Amended) Attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2)[, such as a pump or a valve,] onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) formed by an attachment bushing (11) and a reception sleeve [(11)] (12),

- the bushing (11) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient,
- a reception sleeve (12) forming reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the receiving means toward the skirt, said plate (102) [comprising a lower surface (105)] being designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal [(4)] (3) if required,

characterized in that the bushing (11) comprises a support flange (111) which extends inwards above the plate (102), elastic means (112) being inserted between the flange and the plate such that it is possible to move the plate (102) axially towards the flange by compressing the elastic means.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Once Amended) Attachment device according to claim 15, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the [(10)] sleeve (12) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.